

III. REMARKS

Claims 1, 30 and 58 are not unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

These claims recite "...display the new message, the reply, and/or the comment in the virtual noticeboard...". These phrases are supported by paragraph [0061], i.e., page 13, line 29, to page 14, line 16. In particular, the new message is disclosed on page 13, line 36, to page 14, line 1; the reply message is disclosed on page 14, lines 4-7; and these messages are displayed on the virtual noticeboard as shown in Fig. 8. These limitations are also supported by paragraphs [0070-0077], i.e., page 16, line 27, to page 18, line 24. In particular, new messages are disclosed on page 17, line 16; and page 18, lines 12-21. A reply message is disclosed on page 18, line 11, and shown by messages 822 and 824 in Fig. 8. Comments are solicited by message 820 as disclosed on page 18, line 10. Also, the various messages are displayed on the virtual noticeboard as disclosed on page 18, lines 20-22, and shown in Fig. 8.

It is therefore requested that the rejection on 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

Claim 1 is not unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

In claim 1, line 10, "at least one" has been deleted and "said" replaces it. Thus it is now clear that there is only one second portable electronic device. Also, "the reception" has been changed to "reception". Hence the claim is now definite.

Also, in claim 1 "messages" has been changed to "message". Thus claim 1 is no longer objectionable.

Claims 1, 12-13, 16-20, 22, 24-30, 40-41, 44-48, 50 and 52-58 are not unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Wynblatt in view of Sladek.

The independent claims recite the feature of transmitting a virtual noticeboard within a geographically limited coverage area to a portable electronic device and displaying a new message, reply, and/or a comment in the virtual noticeboard. This has the advantage of ease of use of the virtual noticeboard, e.g., enabling communication among several users.

Wynblatt does not disclose (either explicitly or implicitly) that the first device is portable user equipment in a mobile telephone system as recited in the independent claims. In fact, Wynblatt does not disclose anything on the real implementation of the transmitter. The portion quoted by the Examiner (column 5, lines 61-62) merely discloses that the local agent (with the transmitter) could be aboard a placard truck. This is quite far from disclosing the presently claimed use of the portable, i.e., capable of being carried, user equipment in a mobile telephone system. The transmitter could well be an ordinary transmitter; it could even operate at a frequency different from that of a mobile telephone system.

As the Examiner correctly states, neither does Wynblatt disclose such a virtual noticeboard that is capable of receiving a new message, a reply and/or a comment from another electronic device as recited in the independent claims. The virtual noticeboard of the present independent claims is implemented in the portable user equipment in a mobile telephone system. As the user equipment moves, the virtual noticeboard moves also. The context of the virtual noticeboard is arranged to be transmitted within a geographically limited coverage area of the radio means of the user equipment. Figures 3 and 5 and the description in page 12, lines 1-15 and 21-34, discusses the meaning of the geographically limited coverage area: it is either the coverage of the short-range radio transceiver or a predetermined area within the mobile telephone system (such as a cell).

Even if the virtual noticeboard is located in the user equipment, it is to some degree public, depending on the choice of the user. Other users may see the virtual

noticeboard, and they may interact with it by sending replies or comments, or even new messages (=notices).

Wynblatt certainly does not disclose such a flexible virtual noticeboard, enabling communication between several users. Wynblatt only discloses one-way advertising. It is admitted that in Wyblatt the user may locate more information according to the received URL, but this does not add up to the claimed virtual noticeboard of the present invention. Rather, it is just a mechanism advertising a WWW site.

Sladek is for the problem of combining call processing and SMS messaging (see column 8, lines 31-33). Since it is for a different problem than that of the claimed invention (ease of use of a virtual noticeboard among several users), it cannot be properly combined with Wynblatt to solve the problem solved by the claimed invention, see In re Bigio, 72USPQ2d 1209, 1212.

Also, Sladek in column 5, lines 28-35, discloses the transmission of an SMS message encapsulating a text message to a mobile station. There is definitely no virtual noticeboard in Sladek.

Thus the combination of Wynblatt and Sladek does not result in the invention of the present independent claims.

Hence, for both of the above reasons, the rejection of the above claims should be withdrawn.

Further, claims 22 and 50 recite the feature that the second portable electronic device may include contact information in the reply information to the first electronic device. In the last Office Action, the Examiner suggests that this is not novel on the basis of Wynblatt (column 5, line 63, - column 6, line 16). It is respectfully submitted that this portion does not make this feature known, as it is only disclosed therein that the mobile information terminal may send some parameters to Internet programs. As shown in Figure 2, the WWW server 42 is clearly not at the same location as the local agent 28.

For this additional reason, claims 22 and 50 are novel and unobvious over Wynblatt in view of Sladek.

Claims 14 and 42 are not unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Wyblatt in view of Sladek and further in view of Emilsson.

Since Emilsson fails to disclose the above features, the rejection of claims 14 and 42 should be withdrawn since combining it with the first two references does not result in the claimed invention.

Claims 21 and 49 are not unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Wynblatt in view of Sladek and further in view of Coad.

Coad also fails to disclose the above features. Thus combining it with the first two references does not result in the claimed invention. Hence the rejection of claims 21 and 49 should be withdrawn.

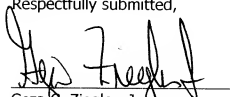
Claims 23 and 51 are not unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Wynblatt in view of Sladek and further in view of Kailamaki.

Since Kailamaki fails to disclose the above features, combining it with the first two references does not result in the claimed invention. Hence, the rejection of claims 23 and 51 should be withdrawn.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for an RCE and a three-month extension of time (1,810) as well as any other fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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13 September 2006
Date

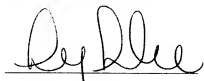
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